

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration and Related Agencies  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-60

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As you consider the fiscal year 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for funding Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loans at the same level as last year.

Consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives generate less than five percent of the nation's electric power but maintain 42 percent of the nation's electric distribution lines. Electric cooperatives' distribution systems cover 56 percent of this country's land mass while serving only 12 percent of American electric consumers. Electric cooperatives use RUS Electric Loans to finance electricity distribution, transmission, and generation to provide affordable, reliable electric service to approximately 42 million people every day.

As you know, these loans are repaid with interest and have an extraordinary track record of repayment. RUS Electric Loans also contribute to deficit reduction. In fiscal year 2019 alone, electric loan repayments netted more than \$161 million to the U.S. Treasury.

We also urge that RUS lending continue to be driven by the needs of the borrower rather than limiting the types of projects eligible. This flexibility will help meet the diverse challenges of RUS electric borrowers and ensure loans are available to support distribution projects, transmission projects, environmental upgrades, or the construction of new generation sources.

Lowering the U.S. deficit and keeping co-op consumers' electric bills affordable are mutually beneficial goals we can all support. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



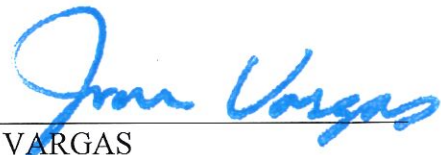
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K. MICHAEL CONAWAY  
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KATHY CASTOR  
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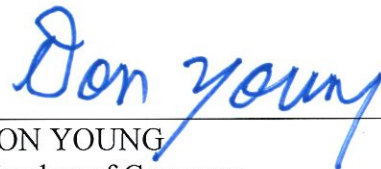
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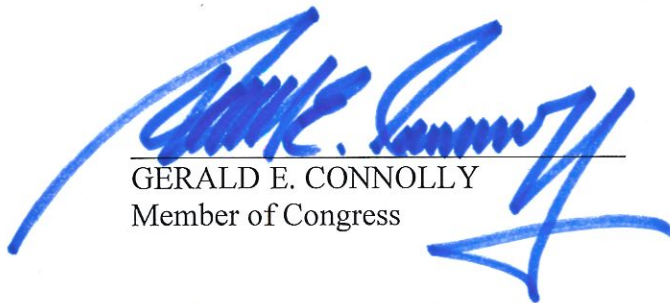
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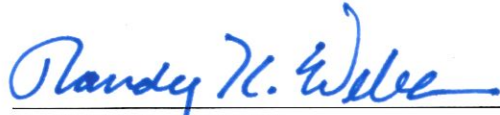
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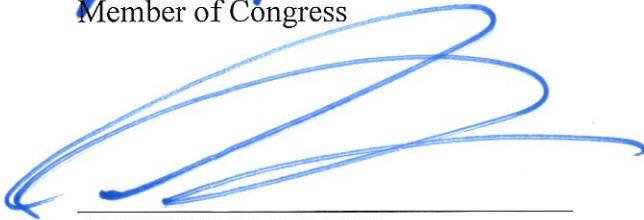
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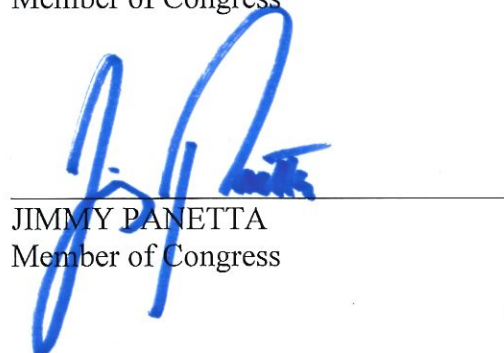
GUY RESCHENTHALER  
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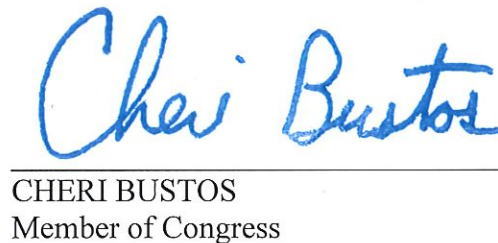
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VICKY HARTZLER  
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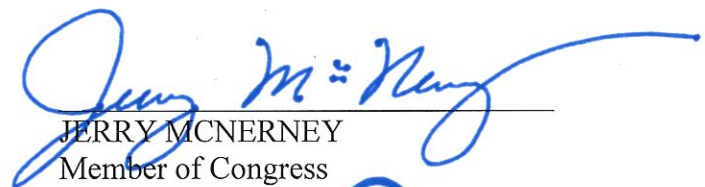
JIMMY PANETTA  
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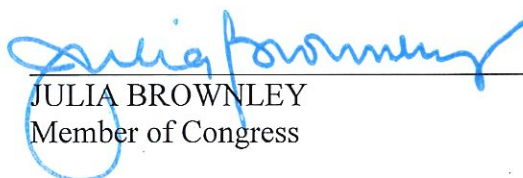
CHERI BUSTOS  
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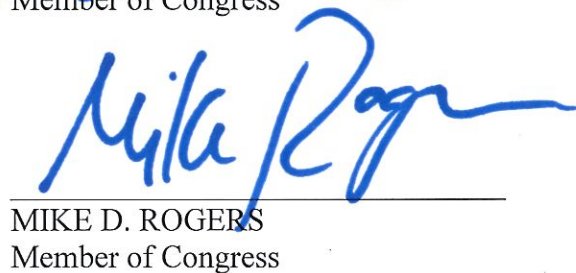
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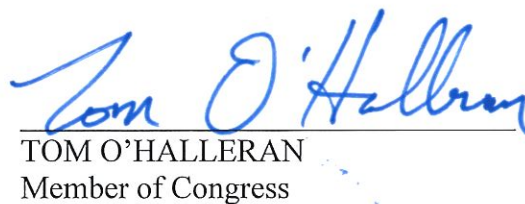
JULIA BROWNLEY  
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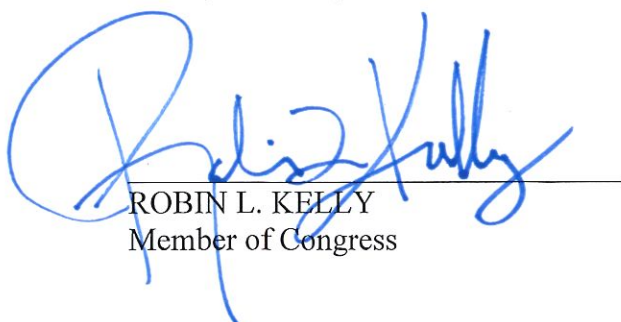
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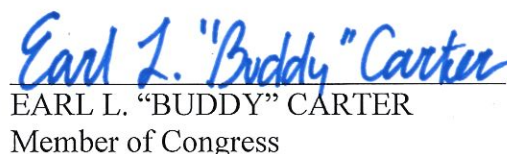
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DARIN LAHOOD  
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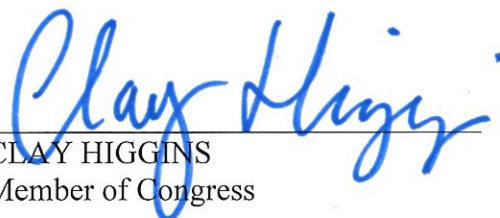
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CLAY HIGGINS  
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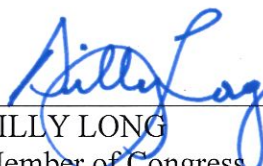
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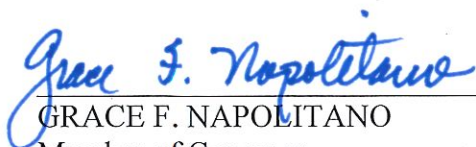
BILLY LONG  
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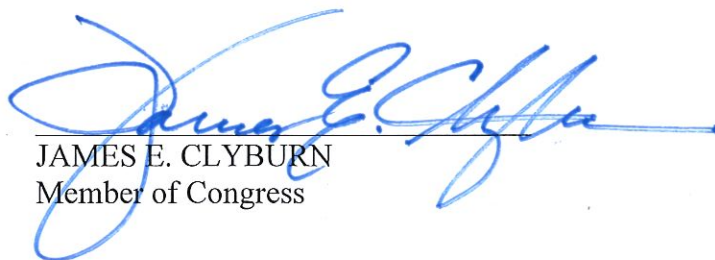
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*Karen Bass*

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*Paul Mitchell*

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RALPH NORMAN  
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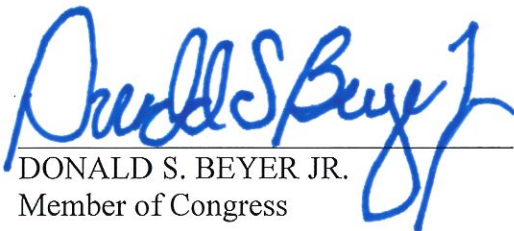
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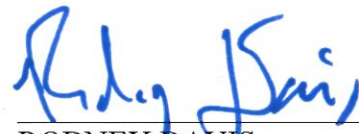
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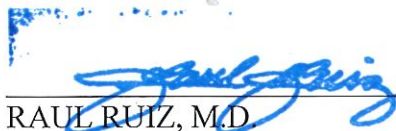


CHRIS COLLINS  
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G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
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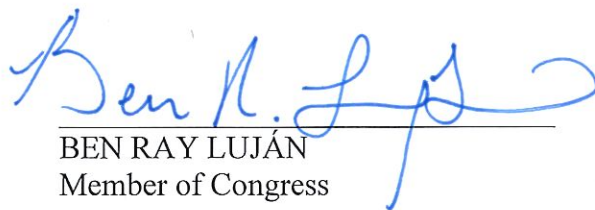
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HARLEY ROUDA  
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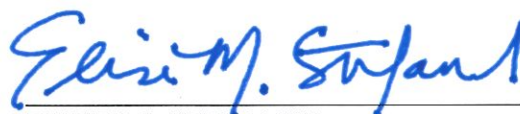
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STEVE CHABOT  
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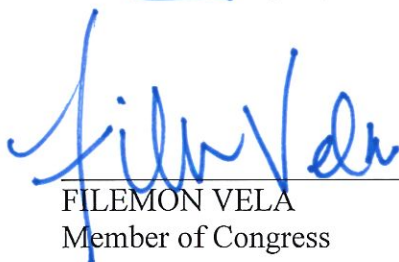
ELISE M. STEFANIK  
Member of Congress



ANDY BARR  
Member of Congress



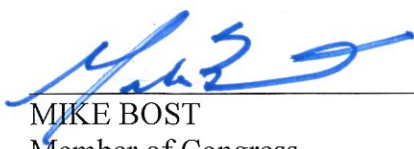
SUSAN W. BROOKS  
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA  
Member of Congress



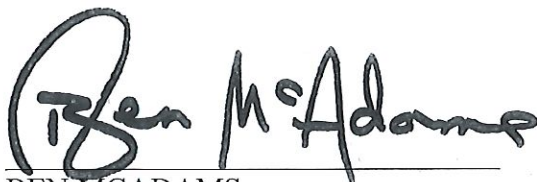
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DEB HAALAND  
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BEN MCADAMS  
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ED PERLMUTTER  
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ABBY FINKENAUER  
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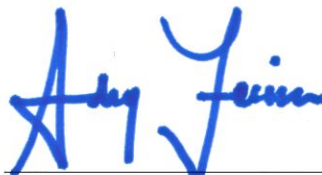
JACKIE WALORSKI  
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KELLY ARMSTRONG  
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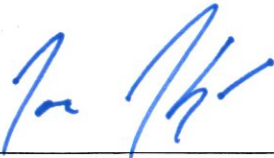
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ANTHONY GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress



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ANDY LEVIN  
Member of Congress



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JOHN KATKO  
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RICK CRAWFORD  
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KATIE HILL  
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LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.  
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DAVID KUSTOFF  
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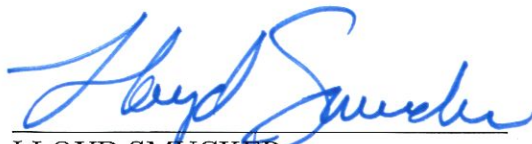
JOHN RATCLIFFE  
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STEVE WATKINS  
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LLOYD SMUCKER  
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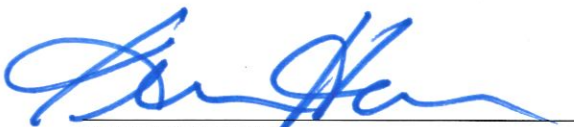
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ILHAN OMAR  
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MARK DESAULNIER  
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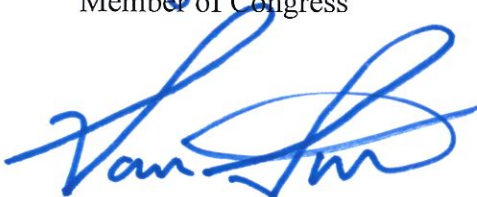
SCOTT TIPTON  
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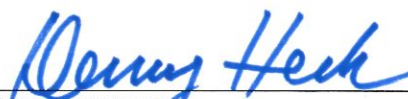
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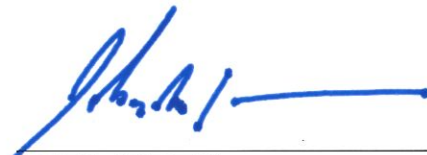
  
AL LAWSON  
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KENDRA HORN  
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H. MORGAN GRIFFITH  
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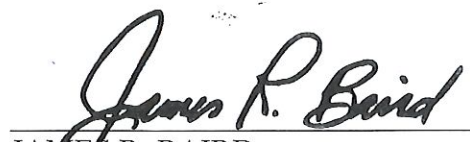
  
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BOB GIBBS  
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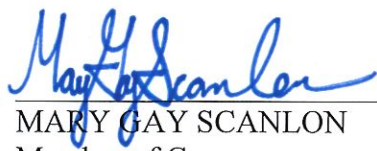
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VICENTE GONZALEZ  
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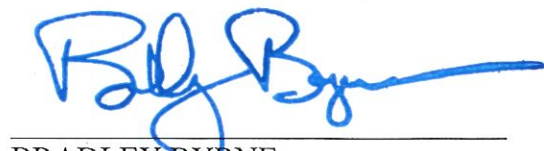
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GREG STEUBE  
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BRADLEY BYRNE  
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LIZ CHENEY  
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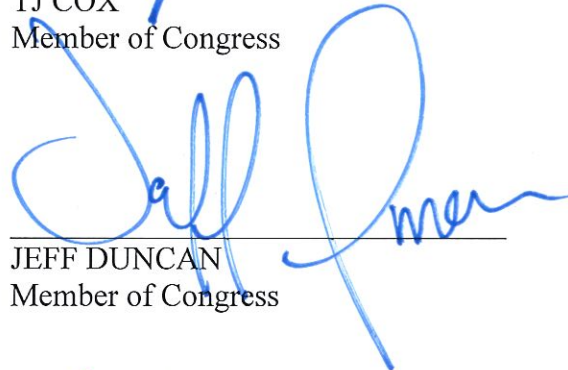
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TJ COX  
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MIKE GALLAGHER  
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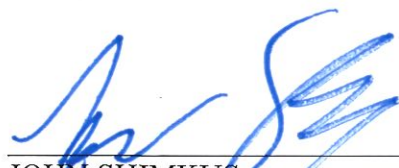
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GLENN GROTHMAN  
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ANGIE CRAIG  
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JODY B. HICE  
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TOM EMMER  
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GEORGE HOLDING  
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DANIEL WEBSTER  
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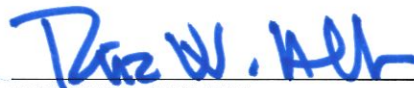
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DONALD NORCROSS  
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DON BACON  
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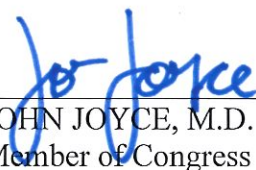
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BRETT GUTHRIE  
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BRIAN MAST  
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KIM SCHRIER, M.D.  
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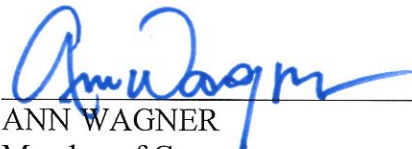
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Member of Congress



MARK MEADOWS  
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER  
Member of Congress



DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL  
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FREDERICA S. WILSON  
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SUSIE LEE  
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DAVID TRONE  
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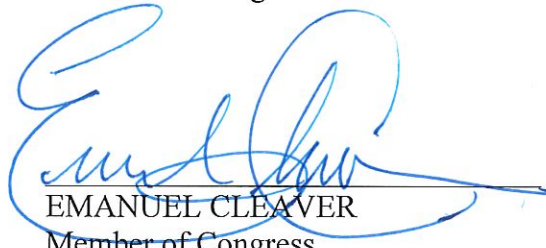
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EMANUEL CLEAVER  
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ELAINE LURIA  
Member of Congress



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JODEY C. ARRINGTON  
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